

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau(43) International Publication Date
30 May 2003 (30.05.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 03/044443 A1(51) International Patent Classification⁷: F41F 1/10, F41A 9/72, 9/79, F42B 39/26

(21) International Application Number: PCT/AU02/01504

(22) International Filing Date:
11 November 2002 (11.11.2002)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
PR 8953 19 November 2001 (19.11.2001) AU

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(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

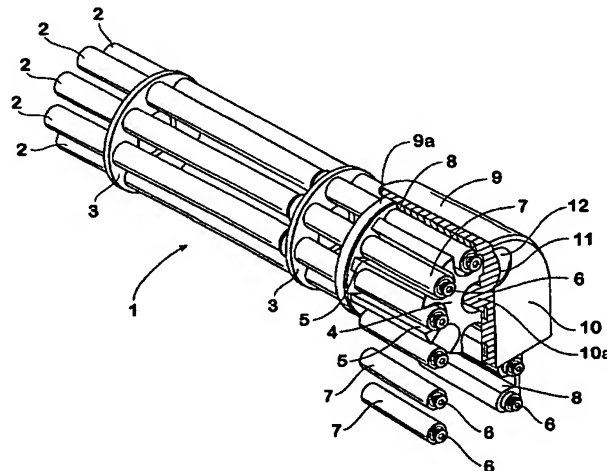
(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: BELT-FED MACHINE GUN



(57) Abstract: A belt-fed machine gun (1) for firing a multiplicity of cartridges (6) encased in sleeves (7), which sleeves are linked to form a belt (8). The machine gun includes a plurality of substantially parallel barrels (2) mounted for circumrotation, a plurality of cradles (5) for supporting the cartridges encased in the sleeves, said cradles being mounted for circumrotation with said plurality of substantially parallel barrels (2) wherein a number of the plurality of cradles in an operative condition are aligned coaxially with corresponding barrels, a housing (9) and a breechblock (10). The housing and said cradles (5) in an operative condition engage sleeves (7) encasing cartridges (6) to form chambers with said breechblock, wherein the breechblock includes a guide (11) for engagement with a follower (15) on the cartridges (6) to urge cartridge and sleeve (7) into engagement with a barrel (2). The gun (1) further includes a firing mechanism for initiating a propellant charge (18) in one or more of the cartridges (6) supported by cradles (5) in the operative condition.

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